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Letter dated 30 March 2004 addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Secretary-General

In implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit to you the report on the international security presence in Kosovo during the period 1 to 29 February 2004 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

[Original: English]

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 29 February 2004) there were 18,589 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops in theatre.

Security

2. Kosovo was relatively calm and stable in February 2004. The high-profile arrest by United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police of four members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) on 16 February resulted in only a series of non-violent protests taking place in Prizren and Malisevo.[1] The number of violent intra- and inter-ethnic events was smaller in February 2004 and the number of violent acts against the Kosovo Police Service and UNMIK decreased as well. However, those incidents that did occur confirm the underlying fragility of the security situation in Kosovo.

3. On 19 February, two Kosovo-Serbs were murdered near Lipljan. This was the third perceived incident against Kosovo Serbs in recent months. To date, no suspects have been identified.

4. On 21 February, a car bomb exploded in front of a KPC headquarters building in Pec. Five people were wounded in the attack: the local representative of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), Mr. Ali Berisha, the Kosovo Minister of Environment, Mr. Ethem Ceku (cousin of KPC General Akim Ceku), the Minister's bodyguard, Erzen Bytyqi, and two KPC officers.

Attacks against KFOR and KFOR operational activities

5. There was one reported act of aggressive behaviour against KFOR personnel during the month of February, compared to three in January.

6. KFOR continued active operations to improve the security in the theatre and to be vigilant to prevent possible extremist threats directed against international organizations and military bases.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. The armed forces of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police (MUP) remained in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Military Technical Agreement.

Kosovo Protection Corps

8. The current membership of KPC is 3,019 active members, including 132 from minorities, of which 32 are Kosovo Serbs. The actual KPC Personnel Establishment List was updated by UNMIK on 5 February 2004. The Office of KPC Coordinator

[1] Three demonstrations, with a total of 6,600 participants, were organized to protest the arrest of the four KPC members.

provided the "KPC Reserve Members List". It includes 1,728 members, of which 22 are minorities.

9. During February, 30 roll calls were made at KPC units. The results show that the number of individuals on leave, sick leave and absent for other reasons had decreased to an acceptable level of 22 per cent. The maximum percentage allowed for KPC absences is set at 25 per cent.

10. On 16 February, UNMIK police, supported by KFOR, arrested KPC Brigadier General Selim Krasniqi, the Commander of KPC Zone 2 in Prizren. In addition, three other KPC officers were arrested: two, Captain Xhavit Elshani and Lieutenant Milaim Latifi, KPC Zone 2 in Prizren, and one, Major Bedri Zyberi, at KPC headquarters in Pristina. All are suspected of serious crimes, including murder. The arrests did not engender any violent reactions and received muted support in public announcements by provincial authorities.

Outlook

11. The security situation within Kosovo showed modest improvement in February 2004. While stable overall, the situation still remains fragile.